



Local Systems (Waste and Water)

The City provides garbage and recycling services to its residents and businesses. Together with Metro Vancouver, the City owns and operates water, sewer, stormwater and diking systems. The City encourages recycling, water and energy conservation as an important part of its role as steward of these services and resources.

Current Trends

- In Metro Vancouver, approximately 1,400 kilograms of total waste per person – the equivalent weight of a mid-sized automobile – is generated in one year.
- The highest recycling rate in Metro Vancouver is in the construction sector at 77 per cent, while the lowest is in multi-family homes like condos and townhouses at 31 per cent.
- Illegal dumping is on the rise throughout the region.
- In Metro Vancouver, 20,000 tonnes of clothing are disposed of annually. That represents more than 2% of all of the region's garbage.
- In general, per capita water use in Metro Vancouver has been decreasing gradually.

What does the current OCP say?

- Managing the City's extensive system of public utilities remains a top priority. The City has established a comprehensive set of policies to accommodate population growth.
- Upgrading of utilities in a systematic manner is encouraged.
- Partnering with Metro Vancouver and utility companies in order to manage the City's resources is supported.



Challenges

- Over 78% of the community is located within the floodplain.
- Floodplain creates difficulties for septic system design.
- Invasive species along drainage channels.
- Limited funding for dike restoration.
- Risk of flooding projected to worsen over the next 85 years, both in terms of flood frequency and size, because of sea level rise and other projected impacts of climate change.
- Costs of solid waste disposal are increasing through the region.
- High stormwater flows to the sewer system which increases the cost of waste water treatment.

Opportunities

- Support initiatives like the Zero Waste Challenge.
- Support opportunities for innovation in infrastructure design.
- Look for way to integrate environmental and infrastructure policies.
- Develop policies for environmentally sustainable corporate operations.
- Encourage and integrate green infrastructure and natural assets into City projects and private development proposals where possible.
- Encourage infiltration of stormwater runoff for new developments.
- Preparation of City-wide invasive species management plan.
- Support community champions in sustainability and innovative design.
- Encourage conservation of drinking water through drip irrigation, xeriscaping, installation of low flow toilets, and education and outreach.

Current & Upcoming Projects

- Natural Assets Inventory and Management Strategy.
- Environmental Service Area Review.
- Integrated Water Management Master Plan.
- National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP) Phase 1 & 2.
- Drainage & Irrigation Feasibility Study.

To provide input, visit **haveyoursaypittmeadows.ca**